

Applicant : Shlomo Assa et al.  
Serial No. : 10/712,409  
Filed : November 13, 2003  
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Attorney's Docket No.: 06155-082002

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (previously presented) A printing system, comprising:  
a laser configured to produce a printing beam for printing a code on a product;  
a housing including a printing beam exit member through which the printing beam exits the housing;  
an optics assembly within the housing, the optics assembly focusing the printing beam on a product which is adjacent to the housing; and  
a bearing that couples the printing beam exit member with the housing, the printing beam exit member being movable relative to the housing, and the bearing having an axis of rotation, wherein the printing beam passes through the bearing along the axis of rotation.
- 2-4. (cancelled)
5. (original) The printing system of claim 1, further comprising:  
a negative lens for expanding the printing beam and a positive lens for focusing the printing beam.
6. (original) The printing system of claim 1, further comprising:  
a collimating lens positioned between the negative lens and the positive lens.
7. (original) The printing system of claim 1, further comprising:  
electronics for correcting the non-linearity of one or more lenses through which the printing beam passes.

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8. (original) The printing of claim 1, further comprising:  
a print zone light source for producing a print zone beam for defining a print zone within  
which the code is printed, the print zone beam exiting the housing through the printing beam exit  
member.
9. (original) The printing system of claim 1, further comprising:  
one or more mirrors for reflecting the printing beam in a desired direction.
10. (original) The printing system of claim 9, wherein at least one of the one or more  
mirrors are connected to a motor configured to move the mirrors so as to control the direction  
that the printing beam is reflected.
11. (original) The printing system of claim 10, further comprising:  
electronics for controlling the motors so as to steer the printing beam from one location to  
another.
12. (original) The printing system of claim 1, wherein the laser is an air cooled laser.
13. (original) The printing system of claim 1, wherein the laser is at most a 20 Watt laser.
14. (original) The printing system of claim 1, wherein the laser is at most a 15 Watt laser.
15. (original) The printing system of claim 1, wherein the printing system weighs less  
than 25 pounds.
16. (original) The printing system of claim 1, wherein the printing system weighs less  
than 22 pounds.

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17. (original) The printing system of claim 1, wherein the printing system includes a housing having a volume of less than 1200 cubic inches.

18. (original) The printing system of claim 1, wherein the printing system includes a housing having a volume of less than 600 cubic inches.

19. (currently amended) An apparatus comprising:  
a laser operable to produce a printing beam;  
an optics assembly operable to focus and direct the printing beam; and  
electronics communicatively coupled with the laser and the optics assembly and operable to control the laser and the optics assembly to continuously direct the printing beam to a plurality of locations in a printing region on a material to mark a plurality of spots on the material while preventing alteration of a visible optical characteristic ablation in areas of the material in areas traveled by the printing beam between the spots;

wherein the plurality of spots are arranged to form a symbol; and

wherein at least a portion of the optics assembly is rotatable about an axis that lies in and is parallel with at least a portion of the printing beam within the rotatable portion of the optics assembly, allowing the printing beam to be manually aimed to redefine the printing region.

20. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 19, further comprising a print zone light source that produces a print zone beam that highlights a furthest extent of the printing region on the material as defined by an orientation of the rotatable portion of the optics assembly.

21. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 19, wherein the rotatable portion of the optics assembly includes one or more mirrors that direct the printing beam to mark the plurality of spots on the material.

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22. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 19, wherein the laser comprises an air cooled laser.

23. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 22, wherein the air cooled laser comprises an at most 25 Watt laser.